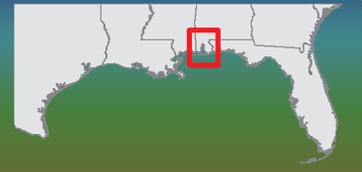




Gulf Coast  
Ecosystem  
Restoration  
Council

## Mobile Bay Watershed

Alabama Submerged Aquatic Vegetation  
Restoration & Monitoring Program  
(AL\_RESTORE\_005\_001-002\_Cat1)



**Project Name:** Alabama Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Restoration & Monitoring Program - Implementation

**Cost:** Category 1: \$875,000

**Responsible Council Member:** State of Alabama

**Project Details:** The project includes activities to implement two submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) restoration and protection projects: The Lower Perdido Bay Sea Grass Protection and Restoration Project and the Upper Mobile Bay and Lower Mobile-Tensaw River Delta SAV Restoration Project. Additional activities include monitoring SAV coverage and species composition at least twice over a period of six to eight years.

**Activities:** Project activities include two SAV restoration and protection projects and a SAV monitoring program. The Lower Perdido Bay Sea Grass Protection and Restoration Project includes annual maintenance and replacement of seagrass protection zone signage, the installation of bird stakes to restore prop scars, and the production and distribution of educational materials to raise awareness of SAV resources in the lower Perdido Bay region. The Lower Mobile-Tensaw River Delta SAV Restoration Project consists of a five-year effort to restore *Vallisneria* sp. grass to its historical range in the upper Mobile Bay and lower Mobile-Tensaw Delta through collection, storage, and sowing of seed as well as direct planting of laboratory-grown plugs of grass. The Alabama Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Monitoring Program will map the extent and species composition of SAV in coastal waters at least twice over a period of six to eight years. Work will include acquisition of aerial imagery, analysis of that imagery to determine locations of SAV grassbeds, and field verification of extent and species composition of those beds.

**Environmental Benefits:** This project restores and protects vital SAV resources, increasing primary and secondary estuarine productivity in these areas. Additionally, education and outreach efforts assist in reducing impacts to these resources, reducing the need for future restoration efforts. The monitoring data will provide critical information to inform decisions on SAV restoration and protection. The data will also help to inform regional resource managers on the status and trends in SAV coverage of the Gulf of Mexico and guide future restoration, protection and mapping efforts. This project is leveraging funding from NOAA to develop a Gulf-wide SAV monitoring handbook that is based on the best practices and lessons learned used in Alabama and throughout the Gulf. It is anticipated that these collaborative efforts will set the foundation for a Gulf-wide approach to SAV monitoring.

**Duration:** Implementation of the restoration activities will take five years to complete and the monitoring program will take between six and eight years to complete.

**More information on these activities can be found in Appendix F. Mobile Bay; Unique Identifier: AL\_RESTORE\_005\_001-002\_Cat1.**



# Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

## Mobile Bay Watershed

### Alabama Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Restoration and Monitoring Program

-  SAV Restoration
-  SAV Monitoring

**Cost:** Category 1: \$875,000

**Sponsor:** State of Alabama

**Project Status:** Implementation

**Purpose:** The project allows Alabama to 1) implement SAV restoration and awareness activities at Boggy Point (Lower Perdido Bay); 2) gather, store, and sow Vallisneria seed to areas of the Lower Mobile-Tensaw Delta that historically supported Vallisneria grassbeds; and 3) conduct two complete, comprehensive SAV monitoring/mapping collections over a period of 6-8 years.



Map Date: October 14, 2015

Gulf of Mexico

Mobile Bay